

# Adjectives and adverbs (1) (quick/quickly)

A

Look at these examples:

- Our holiday was too short – the time went very **quickly**.
- The driver of the car was **seriously** injured in the accident.

**Quickly** and **seriously** are *adverbs*. Many adverbs are made from an adjective + -ly:

*adjective:* quick      serious      careful      quiet      heavy      bad  
*adverb:* quickly      seriously      carefully      quietly      heavily      badly

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

Not all words ending in -ly are adverbs. Some *adjectives* end in -ly too, for example:

friendly      lively      elderly      lonely      silly      lovely

B

*Adjective or adverb?*

<p>Adjectives (<b>quick/careful</b> etc.) tell us about a <i>noun</i>. We use adjectives before nouns and after some verbs, especially <b>be</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tom is a <b>careful driver</b>. (<i>not</i> 'a carefully driver')</li> <li>● We didn't go out because of the <b>heavy rain</b>.</li> <li>● Please <b>be quiet</b>.</li> <li>● I was disappointed that my exam results were so <b>bad</b>.</li> </ul> <p>We also use adjectives after the verbs <b>look/feel/sound</b> etc. (see Unit 98D):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Why do you always <b>look so serious</b>?</li> </ul> <p>Compare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● She speaks <b>perfect English</b>.  <i>adjective + noun</i></li> </ul> <p>Compare these sentences with <b>look</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tom <b>looked sad</b> when I saw him. (= he seemed sad, his expression was sad)</li> </ul>	<p>Adverbs (<b>quickly/carefully</b> etc.) tell us about a <i>verb</i>. An adverb tells us how somebody does something or how something happens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tom <b>drove carefully</b> along the narrow road. (<i>not</i> 'drove careful')</li> <li>● We didn't go out because it was <b>raining heavily</b>. (<i>not</i> 'raining heavy')</li> <li>● Please <b>speak quietly</b>. (<i>not</i> 'speak quiet')</li> <li>● I was disappointed that I <b>did so badly</b> in the exam. (<i>not</i> 'did so bad')</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Why do you never <b>take</b> me seriously?</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● She <b>speaks English perfectly</b>.  <i>verb + object + adverb</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tom <b>looked at me sadly</b>. (= he looked at me in a sad way)</li> </ul>
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C

We also use adverbs before *adjectives* and *other adverbs*. For example:

**reasonably** cheap      (*adverb + adjective*)  
**terribly** sorry      (*adverb + adjective*)  
**incredibly** quickly      (*adverb + adverb*)

- It's a **reasonably cheap** restaurant and the food is **extremely good**.
- Oh, I'm **terribly sorry**. I didn't mean to push you. (*not* 'terrible sorry')
- Maria learns languages **incredibly quickly**.
- The examination was **surprisingly easy**.

You can also use an adverb before a *past participle* (**injured/organised/written** etc.):

- Two people were **seriously injured** in the accident. (*not* 'serious injured')
- The meeting was very **badly organised**.

## EXERCISES

**99.1** Complete the sentences with adverbs. The first letter(s) of each adverb are given.

- 1 We didn't go out because it was raining **heavily**...
- 2 Our team lost the game because we played very **ba**.....
- 3 I had little difficulty finding a place to live. I found a flat quite **ea**.....
- 4 We had to wait for a long time but we didn't complain. We waited **pa**.....
- 5 Nobody knew George was coming to see us. He arrived **unex**.....
- 6 Mike keeps fit by playing tennis **reg**.....

**99.2** Put in the right word.

- 1 The driver of the car was **seriously** injured. (serious/seriously)
- 2 The driver of the car had **serious** injuries. (serious/seriously)
- 3 I think you behaved very ..... (selfish/selfishly)
- 4 Rose is ..... upset about losing her job. (terrible/terribly)
- 5 There was a ..... change in the weather. (sudden/suddenly)
- 6 Everybody at the party was ..... dressed. (colourful/colourfully)
- 7 Linda likes wearing ..... clothes. (colourful/colourfully)
- 8 She fell and hurt herself quite ..... (bad/badly)
- 9 He says he didn't do well at school because he was ..... taught. (bad/badly)
- 10 Don't go up that ladder. It doesn't look ..... (safe/safely)
- 11 He looked at me ..... when I interrupted him. (angry/angrily)

**99.3** Complete each sentence using a word from the list. Sometimes you need the adjective (careful etc.) and sometimes the adverb (carefully etc.).

careful(ly)	complete(ly)	continuous(ly)	financial(ly)	fluent(ly)
happy/happily	nervous(ly)	perfect(ly)	<del>quick(ly)</del>	special(ly)

- 1 Our holiday was too short. The time passed very **quickly**....
- 2 Tom doesn't take risks when he's driving. He's always .....
- 3 Sue works ..... She never seems to stop.
- 4 Alice and Stan are very ..... married.
- 5 Monica's English is very ..... although she makes quite a lot of mistakes.
- 6 I cooked this meal ..... for you, so I hope you like it.
- 7 Everything was very quiet. There was ..... silence.
- 8 I tried on the shoes and they fitted me .....
- 9 Do you usually feel ..... before examinations?
- 10 I'd like to buy a car but it's ..... impossible for me at the moment.

**99.4** Choose two words (one from each box) to complete each sentence.

absolutely	<b>reasonably</b>	unusually	<del>cheap</del>	enormous	planned
badly	seriously	unnecessarily	changed	ill	quiet
completely	slightly		damaged	long	

- 1 I thought the restaurant would be expensive but it was **reasonably cheap**....
- 2 George's mother is ..... in hospital.
- 3 What a big house! It's .....
- 4 It wasn't a serious accident. The car was only .....
- 5 The children are normally very lively but they're ..... today.
- 6 When I returned home after 20 years, everything had .....
- 7 The film was ..... It could have been much shorter.
- 8 A lot went wrong during our holiday because it was .....

# Adjectives and adverbs (2) (**well/fast/late, hard/hardly**)

## A

## Good/well

Good is an *adjective*. The *adverb* is **well**:

- Your English is **good**. *but* You **speak** English **well**.
- Susan is a **good** pianist. *but* Susan **plays** the piano **well**.

We use **well** (not 'good') with *past participles* (dressed/known etc.):

**well-dressed   well-known   well-educated   well-paid**

But **well** is also an *adjective* with the meaning 'in good health':

- 'How are you today?' 'I'm very **well**, thanks.' (not 'I'm very good')

## B

## Fast/hard/late

These words are both adjectives and adverbs:

- | <i>adjective</i>                     | <i>adverb</i>                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ● Jack is a very <b>fast</b> runner. | Jack can <b>run</b> very <b>fast</b> .              |
| ● Ann is a <b>hard</b> worker.       | Ann <b>works</b> <b>hard</b> . (not 'works hardly') |
| ● The train was <b>late</b> .        | I <b>got up</b> <b>late</b> this morning.           |

**Lately** = 'recently'

- Have you seen Tom **lately**?

## C

## Hardly

**Hardly** = very little, almost not. Study these examples:

- Sarah was rather unfriendly to me at the party. She **hardly** spoke to me.  
(= she spoke to me very little, almost not at all)
- George and Hilda want to get married but they've only known each other for a few days. I don't think they should get married yet. They **hardly** know each other.  
(= they know each other very little)

**Hard** and **hardly** are completely different. Compare:

- He tried **hard** to find a job but he had no luck. (= he tried a lot, with a lot of effort)
- I'm not surprised he didn't find a job. He **hardly** tried to find one. (= he tried very little)

We often use **hardly** + **any/anybody/anyone/anything/anywhere**:

- A: How much money have you got?  
B: **Hardly any**. (= very little, almost none)
- I'll have to go shopping. We've got **hardly any** food.
- The exam results were very bad. **Hardly anybody** in our class passed. (= very few students passed, almost nobody passed)
- She ate **hardly anything**. She wasn't feeling hungry. (= she ate very little, almost nothing)

Note the position of **hardly**. You can say:

- She ate **hardly anything**. *or* She **hardly** ate **anything**.
- We've got **hardly any** food. *or* We've **hardly** got **any** food.

We often use **can/could** + **hardly**. I **can hardly** do something = it's almost impossible for me to do it:

- Your writing is terrible. I **can hardly** read it. (= it is almost impossible for me to read it)
- My leg was hurting me. I **could hardly** walk.

**Hardly ever** = almost never

- I'm nearly always at home in the evenings. I **hardly ever** go out.



## 100.1 Put in good or well.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 I play tennis but I'm not very <u>good</u> ...       | 7 George speaks German very .....                           |
| 2 Your exam results were very .....                    | 8 George's German is very .....                             |
| 3 You did very ..... in your exams.                    | 9 Our new business is going very .....                      |
| 4 The weather was very ..... while we were on holiday. | 10 I like your jacket. It looks ..... on you.               |
| 5 I didn't sleep very ..... last night.                | 11 I've met her a few times but I don't know her very ..... |
| 6 How are you? Are you ..... ?                         |   |

## 100.2 Complete these sentences using well + one of the following words:

balanced ~~behaved~~ done dressed informed kept known paid

- The children were very good. They were well-behaved...
- I'm surprised you haven't heard of her. She is quite .....
- Our neighbours' garden is neat and tidy. It is very .....
- You should eat different types of food. Your diet should be .....
- Ann knows a lot about many things. She is quite .....
- His clothes are always smart. He is always .....
- Jill has a lot of responsibility in her job but she isn't very .....
- Congratulations on passing your examinations. ....!

## 100.3 Are the underlined words right or wrong? Correct the ones that are wrong.

- I'm tired because I've been working hard. RIGHT.....
- I tried hard to remember her name but I couldn't. ....
- This coat is practically unused. I've hardly worn it. ....
- She's a good tennis player. She hits the ball hardly. ....
- Don't walk so fast! I can't keep up with you. ....
- Why are you walking so slow? Are you tired? ....

## 100.4 Write sentences with hardly. Use one of the following verbs (in the correct form):

change hear ~~know~~ recognise say sleep speak

- George and Hilda have only met once before. They hardly know each other.
- You're speaking very quietly. I can ..... you.
- I'm very tired this morning. I ..... last night.
- We were so shocked when we heard the news, we could .....
- Kate was very quiet this evening. She ..... a word.
- You look the same now as you looked 15 years ago. You've .....
- I met Keith a few days ago. I hadn't seen him for a long time and he looks very different now. I ..... him.

## 100.5 Complete these sentences with hardly + any/anybody/anything/anywhere/ever.

- I'll have to go shopping. We've got hardly any food.
- It was a very warm day and there was ..... wind.
- 'Do you know much about computers?' 'No, .....'
- The hotel was almost empty. There was ..... staying there.
- I listen to the radio quite often but I ..... watch television.
- Our new boss is not very popular. .... likes her.
- It was very crowded in the room. There was ..... to sit.
- We used to be good friends but we ..... see each other now.
- It was nice driving this morning. There was ..... traffic.
- I hate this town. There's ..... to do and ..... to go.

- 12 a small black metal box
- 13 a big fat black cat
- 14 a lovely little old village
- 15 beautiful long black hair
- 16 an interesting old French painting
- 17 an enormous red and yellow umbrella

**98.2**

- 3 the last two days
- 4 the first two weeks of September
- 5 the next few days
- 6 the first three questions (of the examination)
- 7 the next two years
- 8 the last three days of our holiday

**98.3**

- 2 tastes awful or tasted awful
- 3 feel fine
- 4 smell nice
- 5 look wet
- 6 sounds quite interesting or sounded quite interesting

**98.4**

- 2 happy 5 terrible
- 3 happily 6 properly
- 4 violent

**UNIT 99****99.1**

- 2 badly 5 unexpectedly
- 3 easily 6 regularly
- 4 patiently

**99.2**

- 3 selfishly 8 badly
- 4 terribly 9 badly
- 5 sudden 10 safe
- 6 colourfully 11 angrily
- 7 colourful

**99.3**

- 2 careful
- 3 continuously
- 4 happily
- 5 fluent
- 6 specially
- 7 complete
- 8 perfectly
- 9 nervous
- 10 financially / completely

**99.4**

- 2 seriously ill
- 3 absolutely enormous
- 4 slightly damaged
- 5 unusually quiet
- 6 completely changed
- 7 unnecessarily long
- 8 badly planned

**UNIT 100****100.1**

- 2 good 6 well 9 well
- 3 well 7 well 10 good
- 4 good 8 good 11 well
- 5 well

**100.2**

- 2 well-known
- 3 well-kept
- 4 well-balanced
- 5 well-informed
- 6 well-dressed
- 7 well-paid
- 8 Well done! (2 separate words)

**100.3**

- 2 right
- 3 right
- 4 wrong – hard
- 5 right
- 6 wrong – slowly

**100.4**

- 2 hardly hear
- 3 hardly slept
- 4 hardly speak
- 5 hardly said
- 6 hardly changed
- 7 hardly recognised

**100.5**

- 2 hardly any
- 3 hardly anything
- 4 hardly anybody / hardly anyone
- 5 hardly ever
- 6 Hardly anybody / Hardly anyone
- 7 hardly anywhere
- 8 hardly ever
- 9 hardly any
- 10 hardly anything ... hardly anywhere

**UNIT 101****101.1**

- 4 so 10 such a
- 5 so 11 so
- 6 such a 12 so ... such
- 7 so 13 so
- 8 such 14 such a
- 9 such a 15 such a

**101.2**

- 3 I was so tired (that) I couldn't keep my eyes open.
- 4 We had such a good time on holiday (that) we didn't want to come home.
- 5 She speaks English so well (that) you would think it was her native language. or She speaks such good English (that)...